Requirements

1. Senior management commitment and continual improvement

Commitment at a senior level is vital to ensuring that resources both human and financial are adequate, the requirements are communicated and that outcomes are reviewed and acted upon to effect continual development.

2. Hazard and Risk Management System

Effective hazard and risk analysis and management enables the company to identify those hazards that may pose a risk to the quality, safety or hygiene of their products.

3. Product Safety and Quality Management System

This section ensures that the company works in a systematic way and that staff are aware of their roles and responsibilities. Companies already meeting ISO 9000 should be well placed to meet these requirements.

4. Site standards

This covers the suitability, cleanliness and control of the site and includes topics such as pest control, waste disposal and security.

5. Product and Process Control

The factors that need to be controlled during product development and production are covered here, including printed packaging controls, product inspection and control of foreign bodies.

6. Personnel

Training, protective clothing and hygiene practices are some of the requirements in this section.

Support

BRC/IOP

GLOBAL STANDARD
FOR PACKAGING & PACKAGING MATERIALS
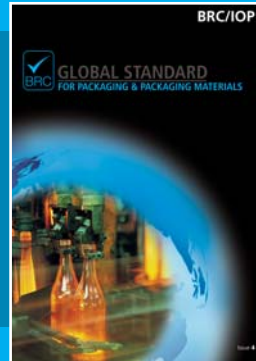
To buy the Standard, go to
www.brcbookshop.com
Available in print **£95**
pdf **£90 + VAT.**

BRC/IOP

GLOBAL STANDARD FOR PACKAGING
INTERPRETATION GUIDELINE

Guidelines offer practical examples and explanations "Interpretation Guideline" available in print **£45,** pdf **£42 + VAT.**

Training

A wide range of training courses suitable for all levels including:

- How to implement
- Protocol and Report Writing (for auditors)
- Hazard and Risk Analysis (with Campden BRI)

More information on the BRC website
www.brctrainingacademy.com

BRC GLOBAL STANDARD
FOR PACKAGING & PACKAGING MATERIALS

Quick Guide

The BRC / IoP Global Standard for Packaging and Packaging Materials (Issue 4) is a set of requirements for manufacturers and converters of packaging and packaging materials to help them produce safe, hygienic and legal products to the quality required by their customers.
Sites may be audited against the requirements by BRC approved approved Certification Bodies and participate in the BRC Certification programme.
This short guide gives an overview of the main requirements, the steps to Certification and its benefits.

For more details visit our website **www.brcglobalstandards.com**
contact BRC Customer Services **+44(0)20 7854 8939**
or email **brcglobalstandards@brc.org.uk**

Achievable

Takes a common sense approach and uses good business practice appropriate for the packaging industry and its ancillary activities. Gives companies a clear path towards achieving Certification.

Meaningful

The Standard not only covers the management systems but also sets requirements for quality, safety and hygiene. **Risk mitigation.**

Cost effective

Accepted by many global retailers, reduces the need for duplicate audits. The results are owned by the site and successful sites are displayed on the BRC Directory of Certificated sites.

Scope & Starting Points

Is the Standard for me?

The Standard is for manufacturers of packaging and packaging materials for food and non-food applications.

✓ **Sites making plastic, paper, metal or glass containers for the food or drink industry**

✓ **Sites manufacturing paper, plastic, metal, glass or other packaging materials for use with all types of consumer goods**

✓ **Sites making transit packaging for all uses**

✓ **Producers who manufacture raw materials for use in packaging**

✓ **Production of packaging materials for conversion or printing**

✓ **Supplying materials from stock where additional processing or repacking occurs**

✓ **Packaging manufacturers who also manufacture consumer disposable goods such as paper plates**

The Standard is not appropriate for:

✗ **Importers, distributers or agents**

✗ **Head office functions with no manufacturing**

✗ **Products outside of the scope of packaging**

✗ **Edible products**

Retail Support

Many retailers around the world support the use of the Standard and accept it as part of a supplier's suitability.

Benefits:

- **Reduce duplicate audits**
- **Set a consistent demonstrable Standard**
- **Globally recognised**
- **Supplier owned audits**
- **Third party accredited**
- **Represents the 'due diligence' defence**

Categories

The precise requirements of the Standard are set to be suitable for the site using them. The applicable category for a site depends on the end use of the packaging material. To help users decide which category their product falls into the Standard includes a simple decision tree of 3 questions.

High Hygiene Risk Category

Typically for primary packaging applications, packaging materials used in direct contact with food products, or hygiene-sensitive products.

Low Hygiene Risk Category

Packaging for consumer products, and secondary and transit packaging for all uses.

Once the category is defined, only the clauses of the Standard relevant to the category need to be applied. The Standard separates the sets of requirements to make it easy to understand which clauses are applicable.

Auditing

The factory audits are carried out by independent companies known as Certification Bodies. These companies have to meet stringent requirements to be approved by BRC and a full list may be found on our website www.brcdirectory.com

Every auditor carrying out BRC audits also has to demonstrate competence in terms of education, training and practical experience. BRC operates an ongoing compliance programme and Certification Bodies are assessed against a set of criteria every 6 months. BRC is fully committed to fully investigating any complaints and has a formal complaints process.

Steps to Certification

1 Learn
- Visit the website www.brcglobalstandards.com
- Obtain a copy of the Standard and study it
- Interpretation Guidelines may be useful

2 Plan
- Perform a gap analysis to find out what is missing/inadequate
- Assemble and train a team to determine the scope and risk category
- Obtain consultancy if needed

3 Prepare
- Carry out hazard and risk analysis • Establish necessary control points
- Prepare procedures • Confirm site is capable of meeting BRC requirements
- Undertake internal audits

4 Pre-asses
- Contact Certification Bodies (CB) • Select a suitable CB
- Arrange a pre-assessment visit (optional)
- Implement any identified corrective actions

5 Audit & certificate
- Arrange an audit visit with an appropriate CB
- Make sure staff available and preparations made • Audit is conducted
- CB presents audit report and determines whether site can achieve certification
- Carry out corrective actions and achieve Certification to gain entry onto the public BRC Directory

6 Maintain
- Continue to meet requirements • Arrange new visit before expiry
- Continual improvement